

Remarks/Arguments

Claim 7 is presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 – 4 and 9 – 10 have been withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 5 – 6, 8 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,174,060 to Imaoka et al. (hereinafter referred to as “the Imaoka et al. ‘060 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0128392 to Kurtz et al. (hereinafter referred to as “the Kurtz et al. ‘392 publication”).

By this Response and Amendment, claim 7 has been rewritten to be in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 132.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 8 as being unpatentable over the Imaoka et al. ‘060 patent in view of the Kurtz et al. ‘392 publication.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, claim 8 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection thereto moot; and claim 7, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include the features of the base claim, has been rewritten to include the features of claim 8, the base claim from which it depended. Applicants therefore assert that claim 7 is allowable as it now

contains allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

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